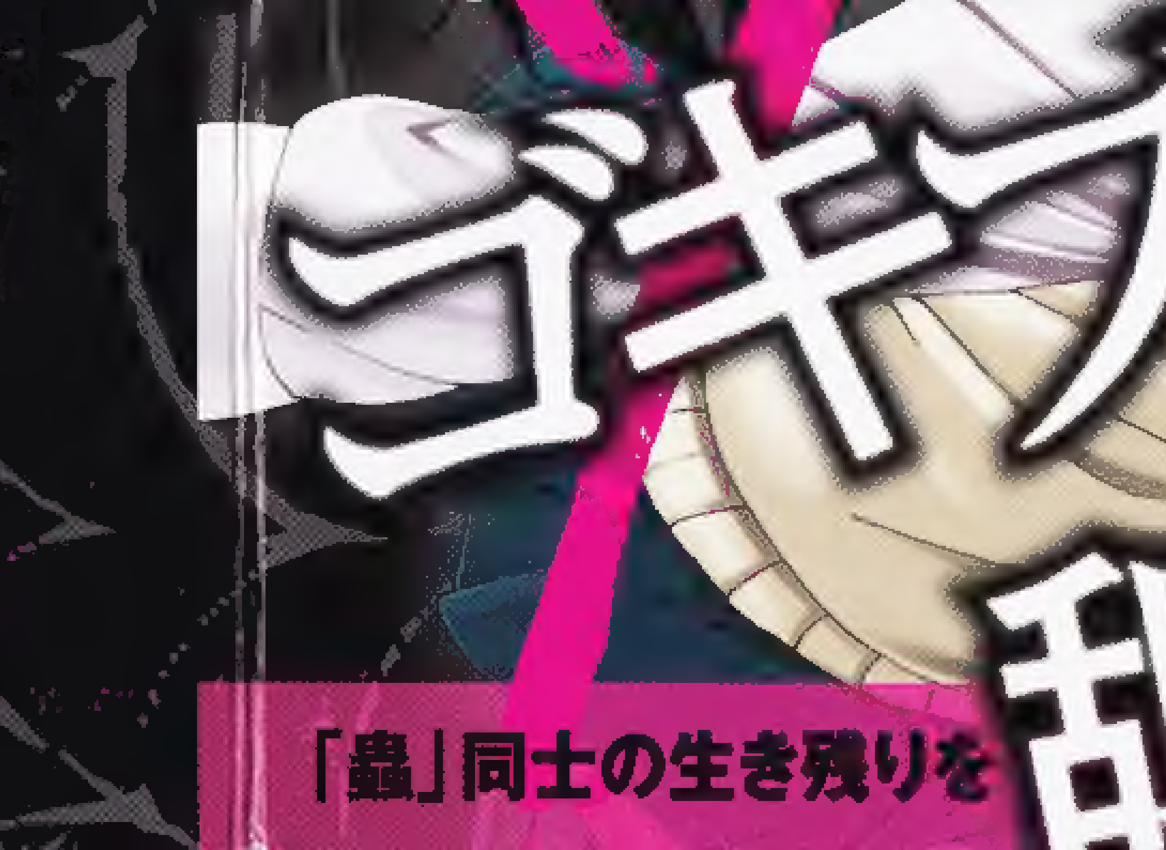
毎月22日発売!!
月刊
GANGAN
ガンガンジョーカー
JOKER
「アラクニド」連載中!!


ゴキ
「蟲」同士の生き残りを

りの
めるなよ!!
懸けたサバイバル・アクシ

原作・村田真哉

作画・いふじシンセン

SC

を

ruthle

ller

killer

ション!!

その「蟲」は後退を知らない!

「アラクニド」の世界より約一年前…。そこにはもう一つの
「蟲」同士の殺し合いがあった。「組織」に飼い馴らされた
「芋蟲」の孤独な戦いが始まる!!

ヤングガンガンコミックス

YGC「キャタピラー」第1巻大好評発売中

1
CATERPILLAR

毎月第1・3金曜日発売!!

ヤングガンガン

YOUNG GANGAN

「キャタピラー」連載中!!

GC JOKER

アラクノイド

ARACHNOID

村田真哉
いふじシンセン

SE

【村田真哉】Shinya Murata

連載は子育てにちょっと似ている気がします。
先々の事を考えたつもりが全く予定通りにいかず、
悩んだり苦しんだり腹を立てたりの連続ですが、
それが決して不快ではないという。余談ですが、
最近結婚しました。

【いふじシンセン】Ifuji Shinsen

お手に取って頂きありがとうございます。
ここの所、作中の擬音や効果音を描く時に
筆ペンを多用してます。
力加減一つで全く違う表情の線が出来上がるので、
色々なシーンで使えて大助かりです。
慣れればもっといろんな表現が出来そうなので、
どんどん使い込みたいと思います。

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雑誌48127-32
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SQUARE ENIX.

校内のプールで「芋蟲」と戦うことになったアリス！　一方、アリスを救うため現れた「兜蟲」は新たな敵と遭遇する。そして、アリスを捜し続けるめぐみの前にも強敵が立ち塞がる…！　アリスを救うため、めぐみは命懸けの戦いを強いられるが…。様々な思惑が交錯する「蜘蛛狩り」に終わりはあるのか!?

ARACHNID

アラクニード

原作・村田真哉　作画・いふじシンセン

Arthnid

Contents

31 The Cause Must Definitely Be Within Myself

32 Please Protect My Daughter

33 That's Really Funny

34 Anyone Is Fine As Long As It's a Girl!?

35 Don't Say "Strongest"

Huh?

Could it be...

Fujii Alice?

.....

Or...

A new ene-my?

!

Who is she?

Wh-

Takazawa-sensei...!

Ta-

He's bleeding.

I've seen him before.

But where's Hibiki-senpai?

At any rate ...

What a relief...

I guess?

She survived.

They're all

enemies.

I have to create an opening somehow ...

I have to escape.

But if I do so in a poor manner, I'll end up being chased...

I'll even end up involving Kuramoto-senpai...

Hey,

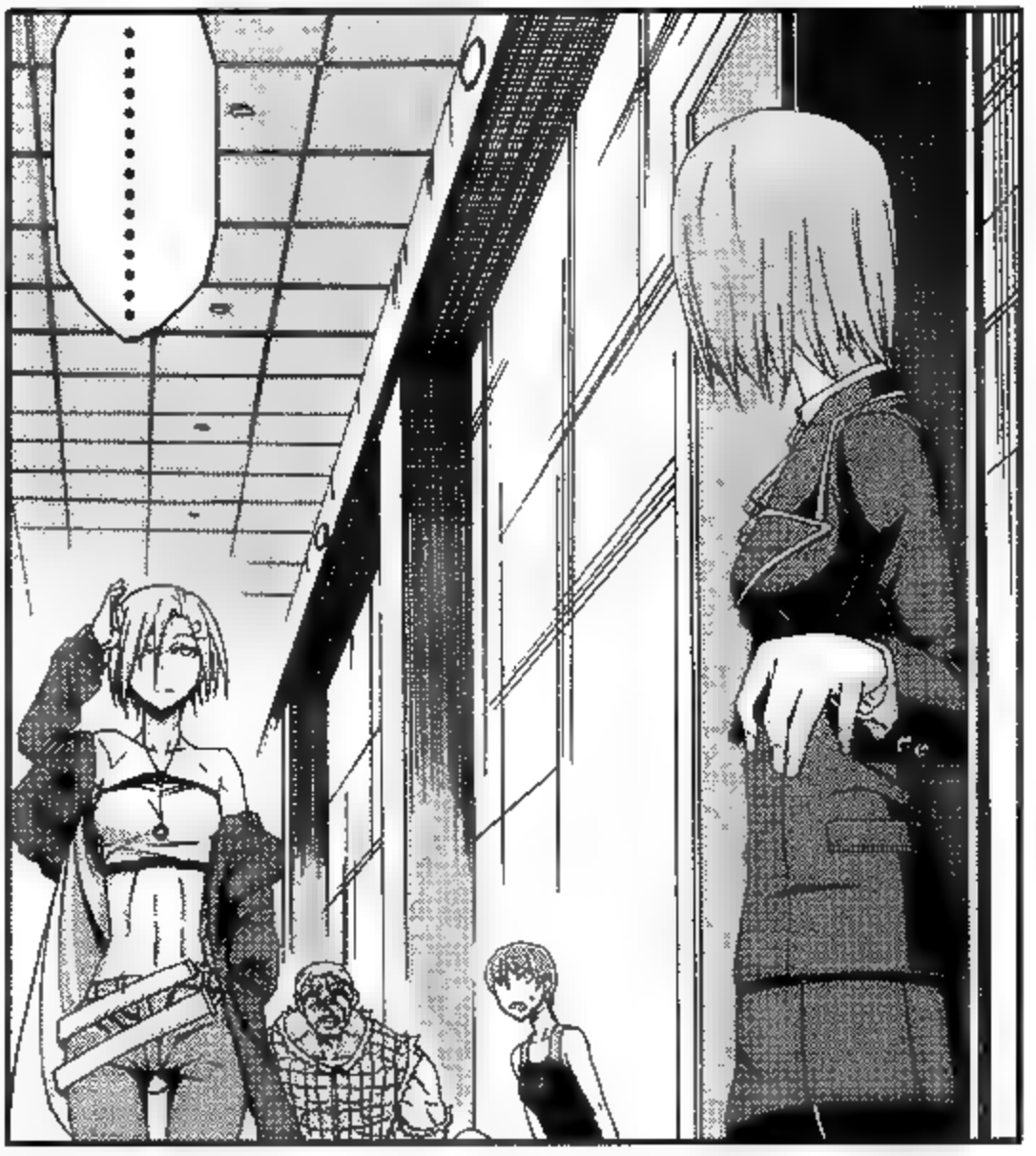
There's something I want to ask...

Are you

a virgin?

Eh...

Why would you ...
Wh-
Why ...


.....

ゴ"

.....
Vi...

Are you?
Are you a virgin?

Hooh

That's weird!

I'm a virgin, but...

What about it?

You actually did lots of stuff, right?

Come on, there's no need to hide it.

Eh?

DON'T ...

There's no way he didn't do anything with such a cute girl.

That perverted lolicon ...

Kumo ...

IT WAS MORE LIKE A PARENT, AND A CHILD.

RATHER THAN A MAN, AND A WOMAN,

You got pleasure from acting out a forbidden relationship.

That's so lewd~

Ahh, I get it now.

KUMO AND I DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP!

DON'T SAY SUCH FOOLISH THINGS!

IT WAS MORE LIKE, UMM ...

Eh...

Well, what-ever.

HE REALLY DIDN'T TOUCH MY BODY EVEN ONCE ...

KUMO, HE...

IT'S NOT LEWD!

!?

I can't see what's in front of me;

Calm down

I'll assess the situation with my strength

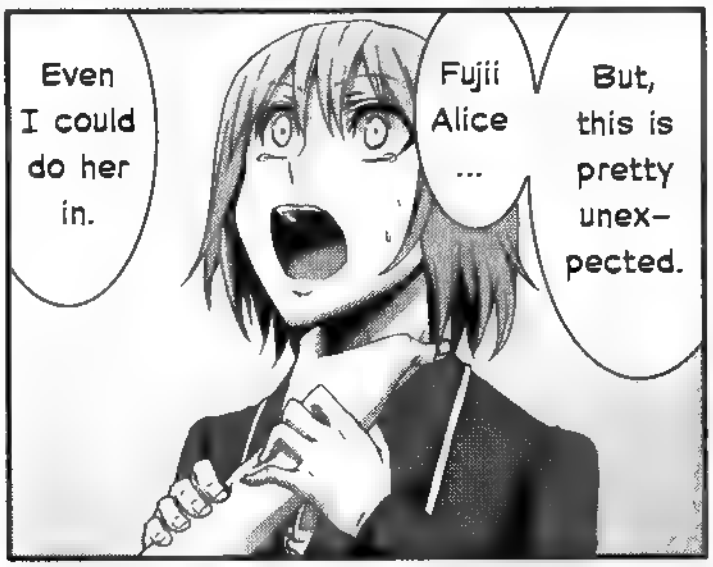
WHAT'S WITH THIS TIMING ...?!

WHA-

GAHH
...

Ohhh?

I'VE GOTTEN MY HANDS ON
THE EIGHT HUN- DRED MILLION.


Even I could do her in.
Fujii Alice ...
But, this is pretty unex-pected.

That's Ane-san alright.
Using such a dirty move so easily ...
I couldn't do it.

I'm sorry.
Actually, I've already ...

Is ...
Is this a joke?
How could you, so easily ...

I already know the weakness of his string.

Appar-ently,

As long as you can break the user's concen-tration,

it doesn't matter what you do to disturb it.

... Fought against Kumo once before.

.....

Isn't that easy to under-stand?

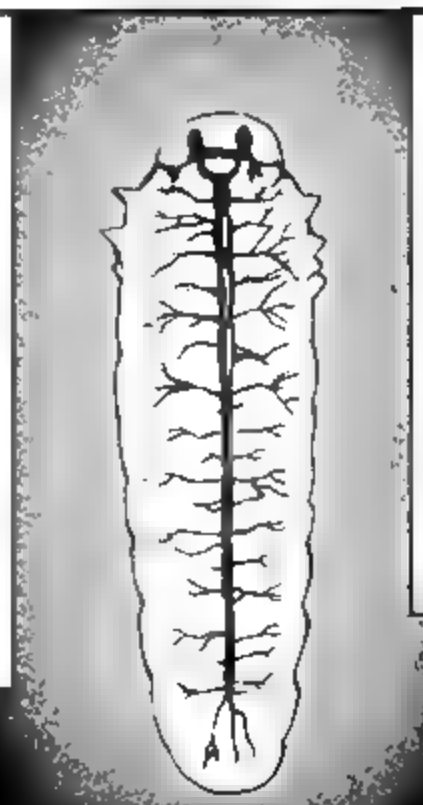
their manipulation accuracy will plummet.

The cater-pillar ...

That is the insect's larval form.

Is endowed with a wart-like end to its cylindrical body.

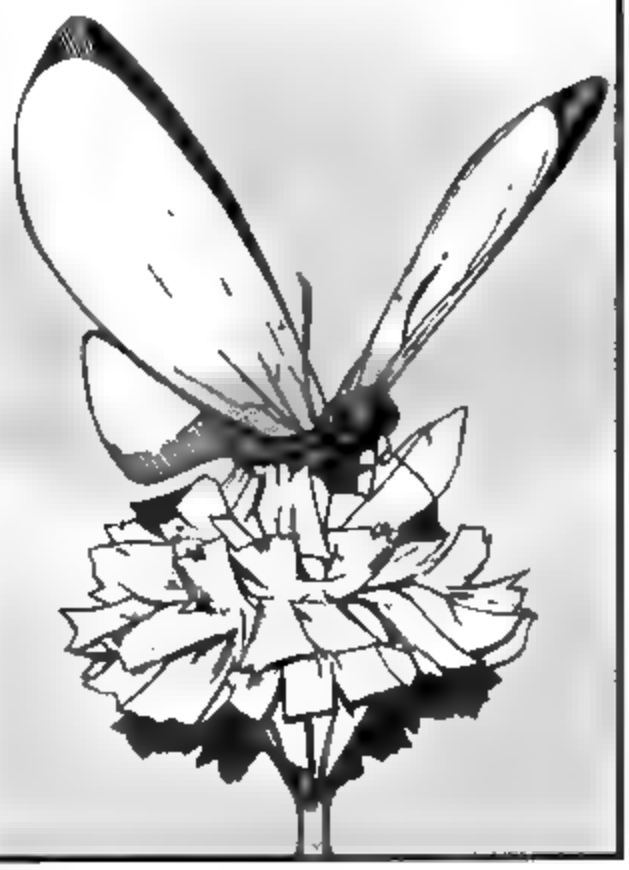
It has the adaptive ability to survive in any given environ-ment.



The catepillar has an internal structure that is simplified to utter basics.

The adult form, with its complicated body structure, is different from its larval stage in the fact that it cannot survive under extreme conditions.

After meta-morphosis, the insect leaves behind its former nature.



That fight ing style

is the complete opposite of Kumo's.

The one who makes the environment her own, Imomushi.

Possessing skill and planning with instinct and impulse ...

Kumo, who takes pride in hunting with multilayer traps.

The ability to freely use weapons ...

TI note Imomushi = caterpillar

For the one who received Kumo's teachings,

and taking into consideration her previous fights, Alice, who usually holds back ...

These two are like oil and water.

Cough

She's come across a terrible being.

Will find it impossible to understand Iwamushi's tactics

Ahhh...

I'll die

...

...If this keeps up...

My [illegible] is trembling

It's...

It's no use!

ゴボ

Let's stop here.
"COUGH COUGH"
GUEHH ...
"COUGH

thats, Imomushi's "Rule".

After all,

I don't kill anything but the prey I've targeted.

Haa

Haa

Haa

is a mys- tery.

How something like you could fetch a reward in the hundreds of millons

Doing some- thing like this ...

.....

You're too weak.

But this sure was disapp- ointing.

That is, I might have become a troublesome individual for The Organization,

but I also want you to answer me this. Intruding into the school like this, with such a one-sided attack...

Just what "cough" is so fun about it?

JUST WHAT KIND OF GRUDGE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST ME?!

Pff

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

WHA-

YOU'RE TOO FUNNY!

PFFF- AHAHAHA HAHAHA

you see ...

Well ..

A troublesome individual for The Organization, you say?

That's funny.

You're like a mere speck of dust.

As I said ...

Well, what- ever.

But, actually ...

?

If you don't, I'll kill you.

Okay, you can leave now.

I don't need you to tell me that.

.....

and I don't really have that much time to waste

I don't really care for things like the Arachnid Hunt,

You're letting her go?

Ha?

After all, I don't have time to waste, either.

No ...

Isn't Fujii Alice the prey?

As long as The Organization hands over the money ...

What is she think-ing?

She misses her timing on purpose

and without the opponent noticing

That's Ane-san's specialty

SHE KILLS THEM IN AN INSTANT.

ANE-
SAN
!
A-

Ah
...

She survived.

She-

カラ

That's weird ...

…

Haa

Haa

Haa

my timing to kill you was 100% accurate, but...

From my experi-ence,

just as you were preparing to use it, its internal mechanisms started rubbing against each other

Since a gun is such a precise instru-ment,

It resulted in a peculiar metallic noise ...

"Dan-ce Trap"

How did you notice my attack?

Tell me ...

It was a very subtle vibration, but...

I wouldn't have been able to sense it if I had set just a normal string

You have been stepping on my string.

I didn't have to worry about missing anything.

strings ... ?!

Along the surface of the floor,

HAH ...

When I was running away from here...

When did she ...?

Wh-

I reeled in some string that was left in the wall,

and I made a trap.

Then, when I met you here,

so I left strings before leaving.

I consid-ered the possibily of returning,

A spider does not let go of its string.

At first glance, this "String" might seem unrelated,

but this is by no means true.

A spider can spin a web after separating from an older one.

While hiding ...

While moving ...

While in the air ...

While eating ...

Regardless of its wandering or netting nature ...

While under-water ...

It's impossible to avoid a trap by thrusting into its gaps

The spider's been unable to will out allow that

and together with their traps,

Spiders spend their whole lives together with their strings

I get it now

will only lead to destruction

Challenging the trap

yes

And also

It's also the technique I used to take him down.

Oh, really ...

.....

No matter what kind of difficulties befall me ...

I'll give you some advice.

As a thank you for showing me something nice,

The cause

must definitely be within myself.

This way of thinking is the basis of subsistence.

An adult's common sense.

Remember it, kid.

.....

I don't really get it, but

I'll keep it in mind.

Well then.

So that's Fujii Alice

Those were her fearless fight from the start

Hee

In what way?

Wasn't you in quite some danger too?

Momushi?

But, that girl

Game than calling her a serial killer

Even more so than that guy.

She's a pure Arachnid.

I left you to die, but ...

Ah I forgot to say this ...

I... I see ...

Ah

It made me feel glad.

The fact that Sensei survived ...

SENSEI

Excuse me ...

Well then,

Well, all things consid-ered

.....

She's a good girl.

A good girl

アラクニド
ARACHNID

Arachnid

Volume 6 • Chapter 31

Murata Shinya • Ifuji Shinsen

• Credits •

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Quality Checkers: blissfulyoshi, taketan

So cold ...

Ngu ohh

Hll

lp

Actu- ally, where ...

What's going on?

Eh

Miss Forehead and Kabuto- mushi...?

Ah?

WHAT'S WITH THESE CLOTH-ES!?

WHAT IS THIS!?

Chapter 32 : Please Protect My Daughter

SHUT THE HELL UP!

that's so disap-pointing~

I don't remember that at all, but

Stop messing around, dumbass...

I thought I'd finally be able to reach Fuji Alice directly...

Jeez,

you almost got turned into something beyond recovery? You idiot!

Wasn't it because of your screw-up that

But my cellphone

was broken in the fight with Jigabachi.

Haa~?

I don't have the ability to search for things like a person's phone number

I'm just a blockhead with enormous strength...

Personal nforma- t.on has been b.ocked

If I had gotten t some time ago...

So what if you had gotten t?

I won't let you

lay a single finger on Alice-sama.

I didn't come to this place to kill her.

Rather, I came here to protect her.

Don't get the wrong idea.

Kabuto-mushi, protecting someone? With no money involved?

You can't expect me to believe that.

Actually,

I already got paid

quite a bit ♡

Do you mean that there's actually someone who asked you to guard Alice-sama?

Who on Earth...

Who?

Isn't there only one person who would?

Eh?

to ask a favor of someone...

For you who believes in not relying on other people

Well, this is rare.

I've found the place where I'll die.

Kumo?

What kind of mess are you in,

I'll be disappearing from this world

pretty soon.

Hmmm~

Well, isn't that nice?

You've always been eager to die...

So, what is it?

Do you want me to kill you?

If you'd like,

I can kill you off right now.

What's that?

Huh?

口座番号
****

My entire fortune.

My deposit account from The Organization and an authorization of management.

It's barely been used...

I'm shocked.

And with this, I'd like to ask you to do a job.

I don't want you to kill.

So, who do you want me to kill?

It's a nice proposal.

protect my daughter.

I want you to

Not here

.....

Should we check the next one?
It doesn't look like they're on this floor
Sure

I can clearly hear people's voices in a 20 meter radius
But,
Depending on the situation,

Just how long is its range for perceiving sound?
That string

Fuji-san

then there's no
if those two don't even make a sound,

Don't blame yourself.

If, for example,

something were to happen to those two...

It definitely

isn't your fault.

The cause

must definitely be within myself

R-

Right.

Thank you...

I already know that...

this whole thing ...

If I hadn't refused to enter the Organization,

Every-thing

really is my fault.

.....

And I failed to notice it...

Something really bad...

We've just been dragged into something...

But,

Eh?

Umm,

OKay.

First Year Class D, Miss Fujii Alice..

Ah-, ah-

Please return to your homeroom as soon as possible.

Tajima Yoriko and Oki Megumi are waiting for you

Th-

This broadcast...?

.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?

IF YOU SAY THAT...

WHA-

A/V ROOM

JUST RUSH THERE ALL AT ONCE!?

WON'T THE INSECTS PARTICI-PATING IN THE ARACHNID HUNT

Isn't it fine as long as we take them all down?

You're annoy-ing...

Oki-san's voice...

Ah

umm

you say some-thing too.

Here,

al-right?

I just want to return soon.

Tajima-san...

just come meet us quickly.

Alice.

Yeah, so

Bye~

Well then,

Bhht

This has been Kabuto-mushi.

That's it.

That was ...!

Fu-

Fujii-san ...

They're alive...
Th-

It might be a trap.

Fuji-san

I'm really glad...

I'm glad...

It might be dangerous to go back to the class-

but...

to the class-room!

Let's go back

1-D

Supple-
mentary
lessons
should
already
be over.

Could
Alice-
sama
have...

Doesn't
look like
anyone's
here~

.....

So, Goki-chan,

That's very likely.

with those legs you're so proud of.

go search for your master

been attacked by some other insect ...?

Al-ready

al-right?

I'll protect Tajima Yoriko,

I object.

on the basis that Fuji Alice should come here.

I'll stay here

What a thing to say with the way things currently are...

You...

I won't hand that over to some strange person like you~

Alice-sama tasked me

with the noble duty of protecting Miss Forehead.

the only people who would dare come here after hearing the name Kabuto-mushi

As much as I hate to say this,

You're not up for the task.

I'll say this clearly.

Or...

are the incredibly foolish ones,

The incredibly skilled ones.

Since when ...

S-

there shouldn't have been anyone here...

Until just now,

And you are?

!?

Abu -
Horsefly

A heretic who kills its own kind?

If I remember correctly, you're an insect who specializes in hunting other insects.

No, rather, this is quite an enjoyable job for me.

Me, a boring Insect Killer?

Well, that name's familiar.

(" ")

.....

What are you doing, Goki-chan?

That's my belief.

"Killing by using minimum force"

this guy seems pretty bad.

Will you be al-right?

But,

to protect your master.

You should get going already

Does this mean that...

"Alright"?

You're worrying

about me, Kabuto-mushi?♪

MY TONGUE JUST SLIPPED!

M- !

do you seriously intend...

So, Abu boy,

Well, some-thing like that.

to kill me?

to use only mini-mum force

With that said...

already begun.

The fight's

H!!

Alice-
sama~

Where
are
you~?

It's gotten pretty exciting.

Fufu...

The insects who've discovered the hidden rules...

The insects who act violently with no purpose ...

too late about how distorted this game has become...

The insects who've realized

The insects who act with unknown purpose ...

There're so many...

The pieces are all assembled.

The small fry are just being cleaned up.

Which insect will die next?

Well then...

ユレ

WHY IS SHE

IN THIS PLACE...

IM-POS-SI-BLE!

I-

アラクニド
ARACHNID

Arachnid

Volume 7 • Chapter 32

Murata Shinya • Ifuji Shinsen

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If she's left alone,
This is bad, this is bad...

How did she find out. ?
I don't remember sending her an invitation

She might not even be satisfied

destroy this whole game
she could single-handedly

Chapter 33: That's Really Funny

アラクニド
ARACHNID

"The fight's already begun,"

you say...

.....

It's not worth the effort to explain.

What do you mean?

Huh?

The results will speak for themselves.

Do you intend to fight my "Kabuto Horn"

with that?

No prob-lem.

Well,

that's an old-school weapon.

What's with this guy?

.....

my "Kabuto Horn" head-on?

He's going to take

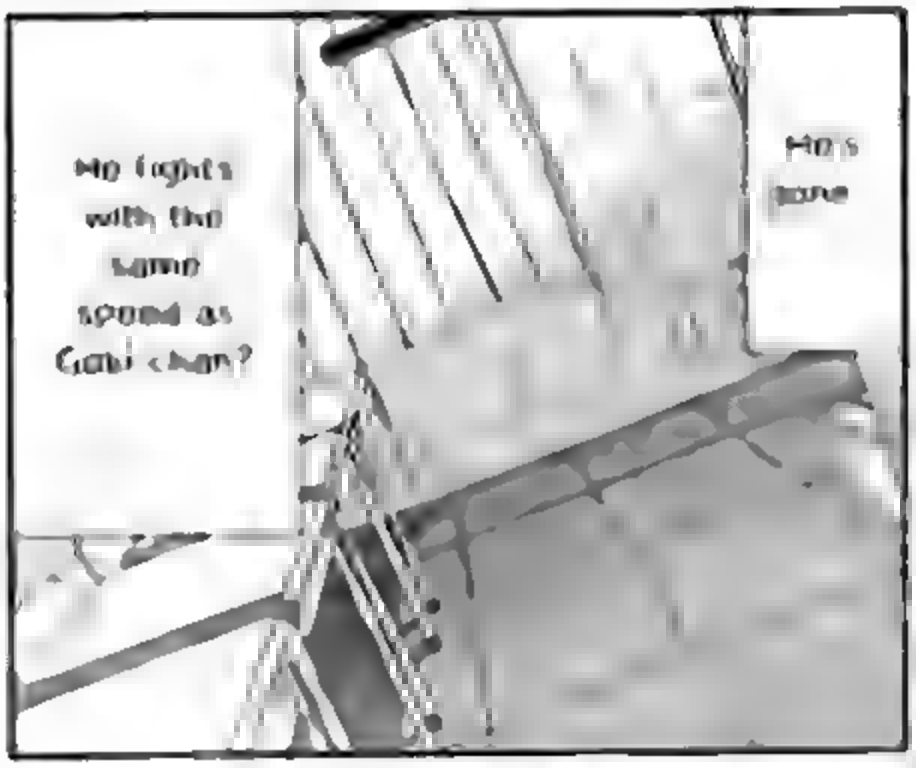
beyond the strato-sphere...

I'll send you flying

!!

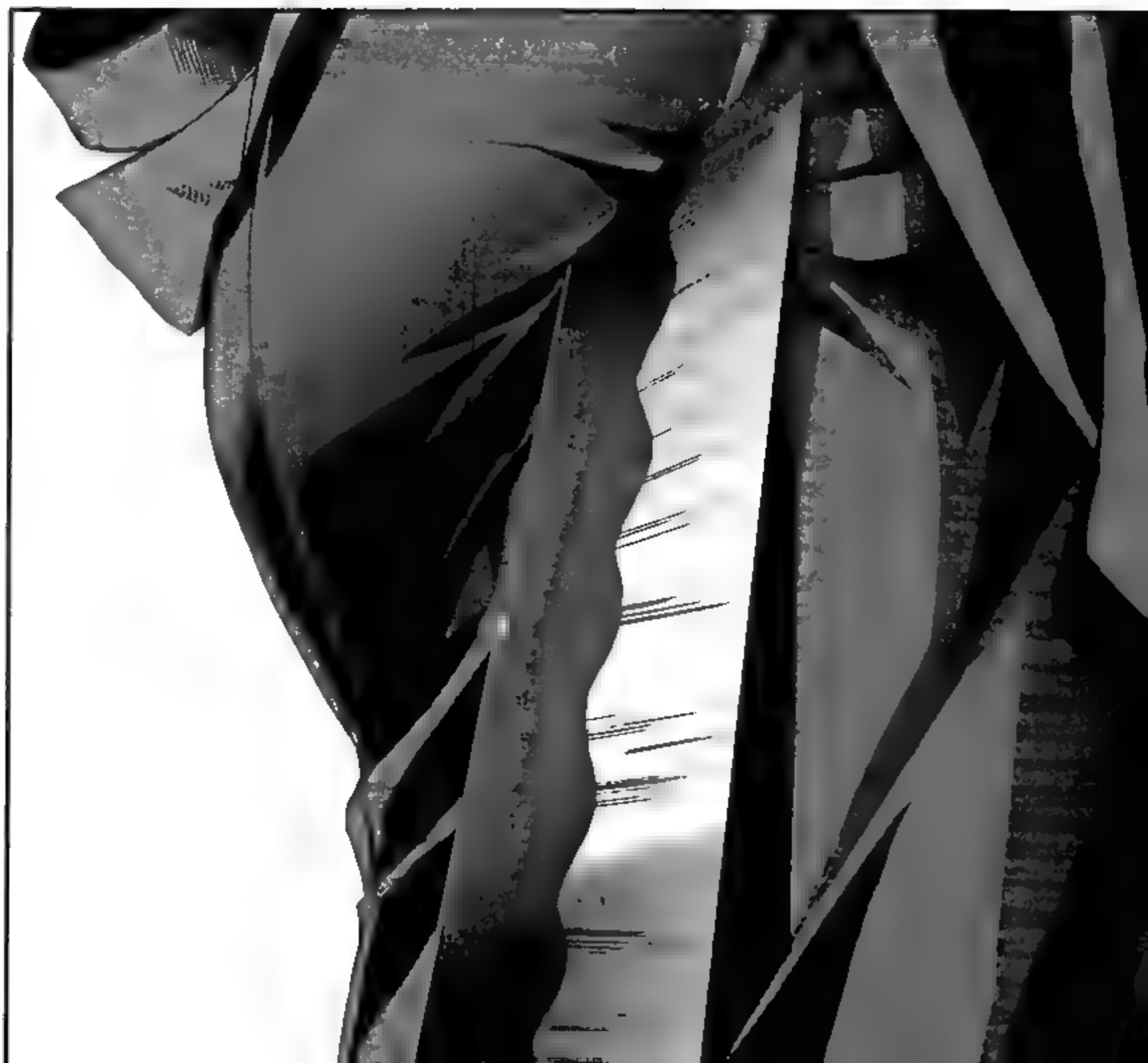
I shall respect his mentality to die with honor.

This seems fun.


He fights with the same speed as Gobi-chan?
He's gone

"KA BU TO ...
It doesn't matter to me
Will

Eh?



GAH...

!?

The moment when one's consciousness switches from "Defense" to "Attack,"

perception is impossible.

If one enters that dark-ness,

Then, you aim for the moment when the enemy is drawing their weapon,

"darkness" arises.

in the blind spot directly next to the person,

This is...

and in a flash, strike their vitals.

Brand Nero."

"Abu's

However, when its prey gets close enough, it leaps up

It usually remains hidden by taking cover

A species of Robber Fly that hunts many different insects for food

Promachus yesonicus

At first glance it doesn't seem to use any scheme to hunt

It uses the proboscis in its mouth to pierce its prey and then sucks out its bodily fluids

and attacks from a blind spot in the rear

a surprise attack.

But in its truest essence it is

At the very moment they spot their prey

But the Robber Fly [illegible] the exception

usually outside running, wrestling and eyes hung for the enemy

A flying insect is hard

There are no swarm of defending against the external facts

they start flying with the sole purpose of attacking an animal

Oni Yanma The Sieboldii Dragonfly

and

Oosuzume Bachi The Asian Giant Hornet

Kamakiri The Praying Mantis

They're all potential prey for the Robber Fly.

even Kabuto-mushi The Rhinoceros Beetle

by hunting every insect when its defenses are the weakest...

Although it's a powerless being that possesses neither poison nor fangs,

I...

I get it now.

most powerful assassin.

the Robber Fly becomes the insect world's

by the time I entered the classroom...

But since I hadn't taken out my Kabuto Horn

It wasn't because you were "confi-dent,"

That is why you showed your-self...

You thought, "I've already won."

#2
CONFERENCE ROOM
ガラッ
ピシャッ

Oi

What's with you being all sneaky and chasing me around from behind?

Well~

You found me...

You shitty bug.

If there's anything you need, just come out in front,

I barely managed to pass you.

Since you entered this classroom so quickly,

It's kinda puzzling ...

Seems like we're both pretty fast.

Get lost~

I don't know who you are, but I don't have time to waste with small fry.

How absurd~

Boasting about your speed in front of Gokiburi~

...Is what you're think-ing, right?

"There couldn't be anyone who can keep up with me"

Keke

but it's true.

That bluff of yours is pretty funny,

What are you?

.....

Geji - Centipede

There's been a change of plans.

Guess I'll be taking care of the roach first~

If you managed to find Fujii Alice,

I was going to take you both down at once, but...

Heh

If you can, that is.

You're so damn slow...
MISS ING?
Is it that time of the month?

GAH

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH?

KUH...

"Air Detection"

It's useless, it's useless!

GAHH

SHIT!

Well, then–

GUHH...

PUAHHH

That's really funny.

You're sooo slow~

アラクニド
ARACHNID

Arachnid

Volume 7 • Chapter 33

Murata Shinya • Ifuji Shinsen

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out of all the arthropods inhabiting this Earth-

Surpri-singly,

There are only two species

that can outrun a cockroach.

One is the Spider,

and the other ...

Chapter 34: Anyone Is Fine As Long As It's a Girl!?

You're WAAAY too slow.

C'mon, seriously?

Faster than Alice-sama?

May-be even

She's faster than me!

Th-This girl ...

That's hilarious!

Don't tell me you're actually proud of that speed.

While spiders read minute vibrations through their threads and legs,

and overcome the roach's speed through instan taneous reflexes,

entirely outclasses the cockroach's.

The house centi-pede's running speed

and heighten its meta-bolism.

It has spiracles on its back that optimize breathing.

with its large com pound eyes.

It instantly assesses its surroun dings

And a light, compact exoske leton,

each organ vastly superior to the cock roach's.

that enable its mere dible running speed.

Count less long, thin legs

hunting machine.

TLN: Kanji reads "predatory arthropod"

In short, it is the world's fastest

I must take her down...

I can't let her get close to Alice-sama.

This one's danger-ous...

What is it?

Huh?

can I ask you some-thing?

Say,

Is there actually a point

in defending Fujii Alice?

PFFT!

A low-life like you

couldn't possibly under-stand ...

Technically, the whole Organization will become your enemy.

Can it be that you're doing this out of *friendship* or something?

Hee hee!

BYAHAHAHAHA!!

SERIOU-SLY!? IT'S SERIOUSLY FRIEND-SHIP!?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDD-ING ME!

Sfx: Blush

Y-YOU ...

SHUT IT!

JUST HOW LONELY ARE YOU ANYWAY?

THAT'S PRAC-TICALLY NOTH-ING!

What a riot.

Man ...

ドン!!

GAH
...!!

I stuffed a ton of things in this reinforced fiber knee-high.

Pretty powerful, huh?

What d'you think?

This end-game weapon is portable

And packs a hell of a punch!

I call it

GEJI SAP

TLN: Kanji reads "Geji Cloth Cosh"

Hand tools, empty bottles, a manual...

And also,

I just ran around and picked things up from the floor.

When the hell did you make that thing...?

Wha–

Eh...

Stuff like that.

Fake friendship.

There are people like you.

Ohhh, yeah ...

GUAHH!

ドン

Even though they're just "Bugs",

they want relationships with normal people.

Wake the hell up already!

Half-assed shits.

Drippin' with lingering affection for the everyday world.

The moment you threw away your real name,

BEING HUMAN.

YOU STOPPED

ニィ

A knock on the head with "this"

guaran-tees a concus-sion.

Lucky ones pass out and unlucky ones drop dead.

Add to that bruises every-where,

and retirement is inevitable.

But, well ...

Just in case.

I'LL CRUSH YOUR HEAD

AND IT'LL DO YOU IN FOR GOOD!!

Wait,

why ...

Huh?

GAHH!

and the way you fell...

That impact

So why ...

You definitely should have passed out!

Wh-

Why ...

Ugh ...

WHY ARE YOU STILL MOVING?

Roaches have two brains.

Besides the brain, the thorax contains a large nerve bundle - the giant interneuron.

Or GI for short.

The GI is directly connected to its body hair.

The moment the roach senses danger, it immediately takes evasive action

without having to use its brain.

While similar to the humans' spinal reflex,

what's astonishing is its perfection.

Even in experiments

where a cockroach's brain was removed along with the entire head...

no different from the other cock-roaches.

Thanks to the GI, the roach freely moved about,

but star-vation.

The cause of death was not the damage from decap-itation,

What's more, it survived for around two weeks.

SHE'S TOO UNPRE-DICT-ABLE,

DAM-MIT!

I CAN'T READ HER MOVE-

HOW CAN YOU MOVE !?

WHY,

YOU

...

AGH!

TCH!

You bitch ...!

Whew ...

It seems like I was uncon-scious.

How-ever!

Just as I thought,

you couldn't finish me off...

Th-

This girl ...

She can seriously fight

while being knocked out...!?

No... No way!

Just what kind of training makes that trick possible ...?

Kabuto-mushi's training

begins with her sending students flying

and knocking them out.

So even if we're unconscious, we're trained to automatically escape from attacks.

For this Goki-buri here,

some-thing like that

is the most basic of basics ...

Hmph!

So what?

.....

NOTHING CHANGES THAT.

I'M STILL A LOT FASTER!

EITHER WAY, YOU CAN'T WIN.

DIE!

Too slow.

YOW-CH!

Your speed has already gone down drastically.

Can it be ...

TCH ...!

My good-ness!

I can hardly believe

That you're out of breath

from a small skirmish like this?

Now, I'll tell you

what my true goal is.

It's ...

that I was lectured by this weedy girl

on how "Bugs" should operate.

Ultimate

partiality.

Forget the Organ-ization!

I'll kill people I don't like,

and I won't kill those I've taken a liking to.

For me, this selfishness is what it means to be a Bug.

What's more,

I PRO-TECT ALICE SAMA ...

IT'S THE REASON WHY

EEEK!

EEE ...

I can't get through to her.

She's crazy!

Where do you think you're going?

I'll retreat for now,

and attack Fujii Alice directly ...

I've had enough of dealing with this nut!

Your senpai is still talking.

I can't stop in time...

No!

EEK!

EE-

aren't half bad...

Your looks and bad person-ality

Certain Kill-

Death to you.

But you're annoying.

GOKI
LARIAT

Hmph!

Even though you're talented,

a little girl who's had it all easy ...

is way too early to go up against Gokiburi

by about ...

Three hundred million years!

but they're all worn out.

These bondage clothes weren't bad,

this idiot's uniform.

I think I'll borrow

Let's see...

Oh,

that reminds me.

Such indecent under-garments...

Hmph!

I thought I heard your voice

PANT

PANT

I—

PANT

Oki-san!

So it was you,

OH!

ALICE-SAMAA!!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT!

YOU TOO, OKI-SAN.

YOU'RE SAFE ...

So, er ...

What were you doing in here ...?

Huh?

Uh.

I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO!

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

YES!

I'LL BE COUN-TING ON YOU.

OOPS.

AS LONG AS IT'S A GIRL!?

ARE YOU FINE WITH ANY-ONE

this isn't what it looks like.

No,

This is, umm ...

Oki-san ...

O-

アラクニド
ARACHNID

Arachnid

Volume 7 • Chapter 34

Murata Shinya • Ifuji Shinsen

• Credits •

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The space between the third and fourth left ribs.

"Kyouroku."

(TLN: Lit. "Breast's Six".)

.....

A well-aimed thrust there can strike the heart,

the human body's funda-mental weak point...

Which should have killed you.

Chapter 35: Don't Say "Strongest"

So why are you still alive?

That direct hit

did knock the wind out of me...

But you shouldn't be so surprised.

The ribcage is full of spaces,

and it can't protect you from blades or bullets.

So, I just happen to have

some steel armor protecting my heart.

That's

Kabuto-mushi's defensive gear...

"Kabuto Mail."

The exo-skeleton:

to protect the front, rather than the back...

From a human's pers-pective, it would be more prudent

which effec tively pro tects its vital organs.

The back of the Japanese Kabutomushi is covered by a hardened fore wing called the elytra,

Their vitals are located towards their back.

However, the body structure of an insect is the opposite to that of vertebrates.

The beetle's exoskeleton, therefore,

Defending the top is quite logical.

For humans, it would be the equivalent of crab walking

So I can't beat you with one strike?

Hmph

In that case...

that directly covers its host's weak points.

is a com plete and flawless set of armor

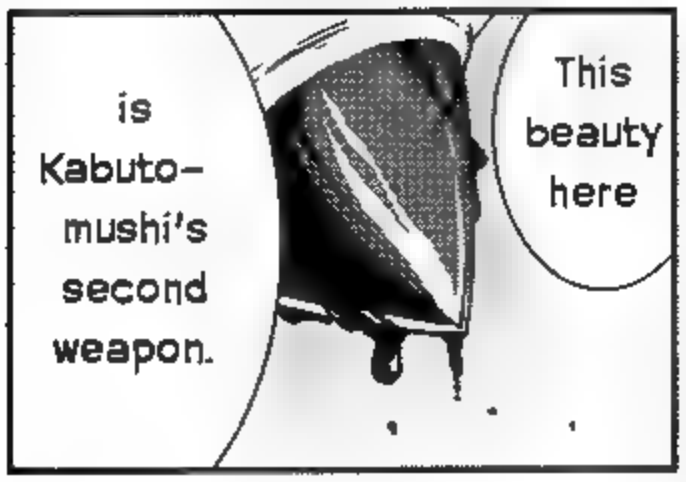
You're going to die anyway.
What can a female ka-butomushi do without her horns?

I'll just slice you into bits.

STRIKE BACK.

YOU CAN'T EVEN

Horns aren't every-thing.


This beauty here
is Kabuto-mushi's second weapon.

NGH...

"Kabuto Spikes."

Oho...

What the hell

Wha--

But you also had steel in your arms, too?

Not only inside your body—

and conce-ivable attacks

All weap-ons

You're up against the strongest sword art, "Brand Nero"

Whatever, nothing's changed

("...N ...ary reads "Blade of Darkness")

are rendered useless.

My superiority will be proven.

And in that moment,

Go ahead and attack me, Kabuto-mushi.

What's wrong?

What?

I won't attack.

No than-ks.

Now die–

You've missed!

The floor...?

The–

WAIT...

!?

2-D

1ポン

WHA--

WHAT THE--

EEEK!!

WHAT THE HELL!?

To think she busted through the floor!

Shit.

What ridiculous strength ...

Ugh...

she is techni-cally the "stron-gest."

In terms of winning.

Someone like that...

She can't win without her extensive prep - a "conditional winner."

But she can only create openings in the enemy's defense.

Is not who I would call "The Strongest."

Female kabuto-mushi

have powerful weapons that males lack...

The countless spikes

on her head and legs.

The female uses these spikes

to dig faster and deeper into the earth than males.

While often used during fights,

their primary purpose is for excava-tion.

But they are so capable at digging

the bottoms of plastic insect containers

that they often tear through

[illegible] your own strength

[illegible] change [illegible] able conditions into favorable ones

I see.

.....

the odds now are still fifty-fifty.

However,

The grounds for your supposed invincibility..

That's your way of doing things.

Kabuto-mushi or Abu...

and are thus on equal ground.

We both have our weapons drawn,

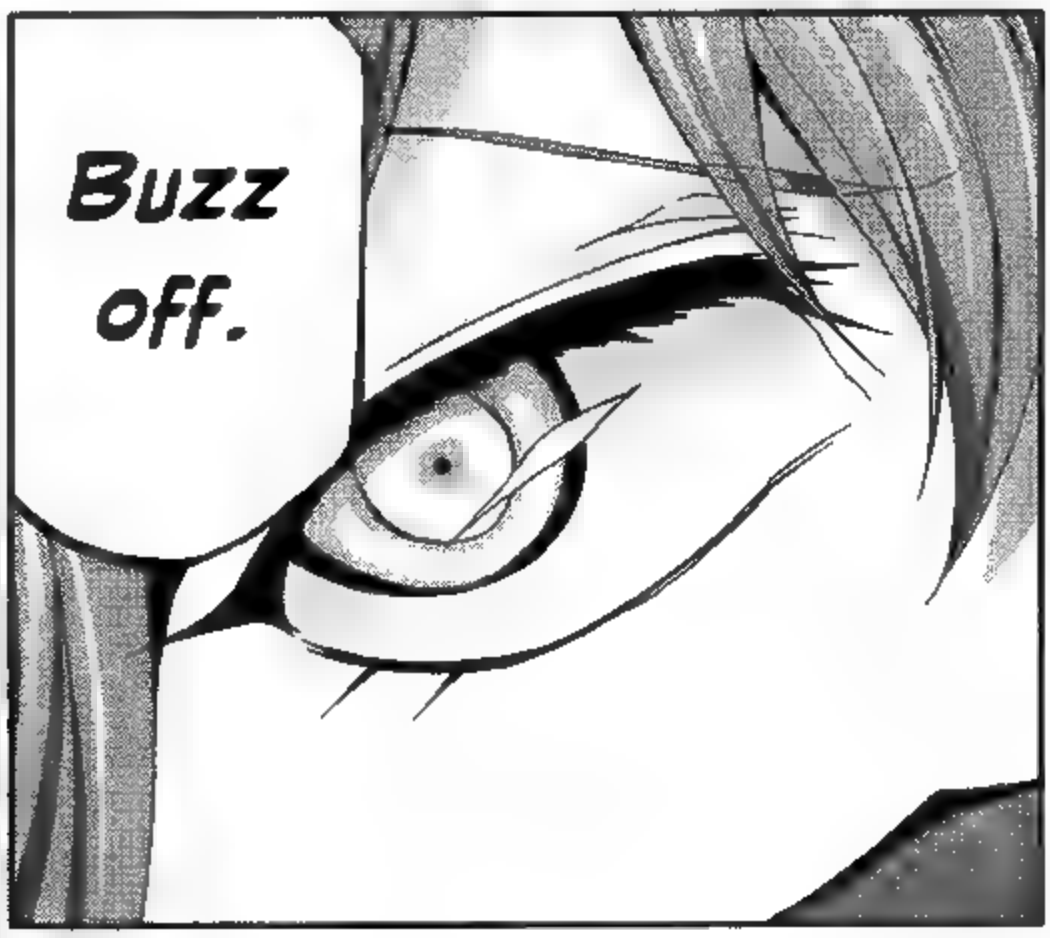
who is truly "The Strongest."

We'll see

here and now.

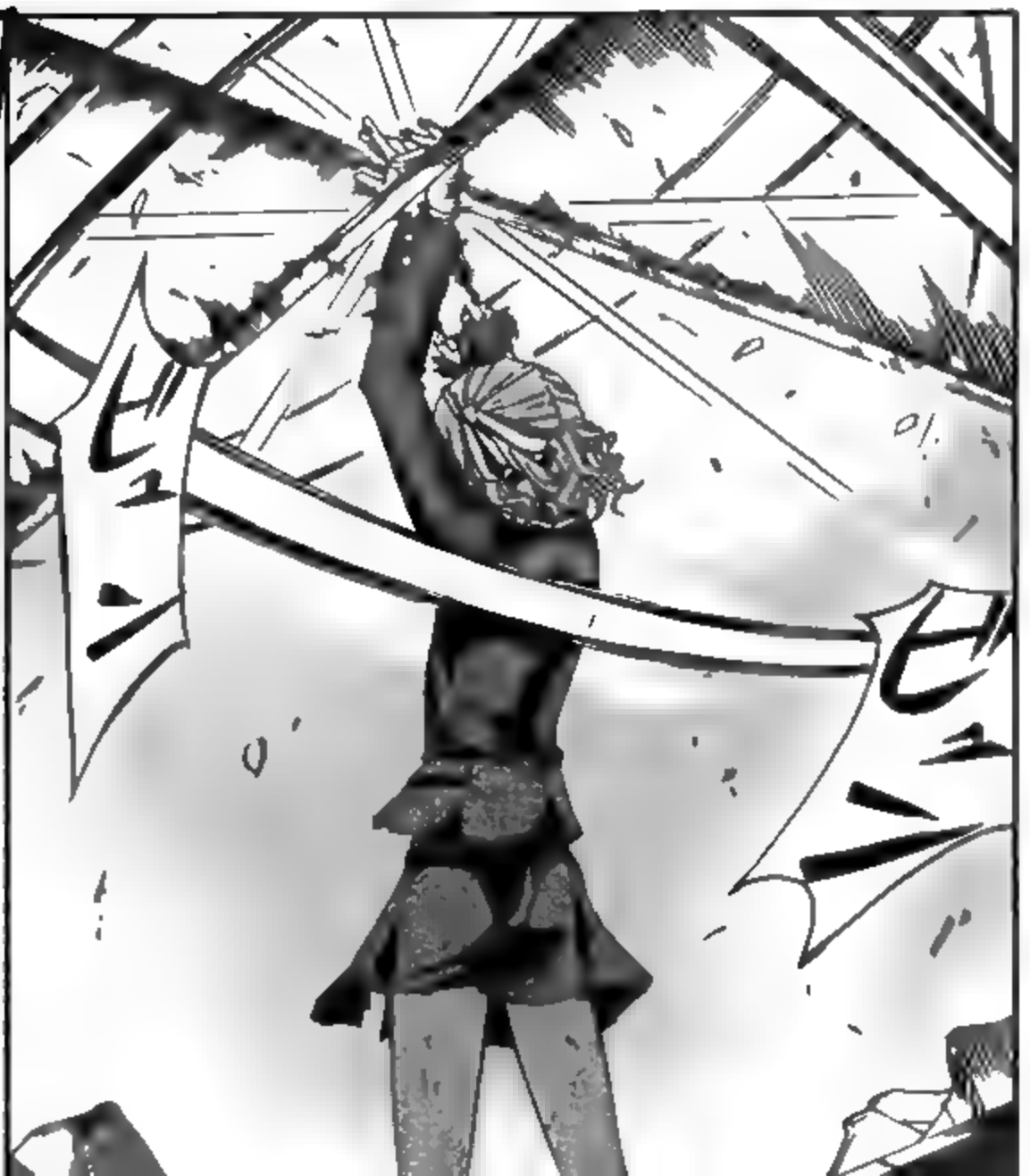
It shall be decided

Eh?


Buzz
off.

スカ!!

Hmph!



ON "THE STRONGEST."
DON'T LOOK DOWN

ドゥドゥドゥン

Whoa...

I don't know what's happening out there ...

カリ〜

An earth-quake?

What was that?

Imo-
mushi.

But
props on
finding
me,

カリ

カリ

Suzume-
bachi.

You've led
me on a
merry
chase,

If you need anything, make it quick.

I'm acting on the Boss' orders.

Right now,

I just wanted ...

It's not a huge deal.

about how my sister died.

To ask you a few things

I might kill you.

De-pending on your answer,

You came looking for me

just for that?

You bet.

but I'm a little busy at the moment.

Sounds fun,

(TLN: The language is Tha; apologies if I fluffed the romanization.)

Lap saa

(Understood)

Dinopo-nera.

I'll leave her to you

for taking care of my father.
Thank you

Lately, there're paper scattered all over the room.

かいせつ

I'll use these extra pages to give some insight on the battles in this volume.

I'm the author, Murata Shinya.

Thank you for even reading this part!

Imo-mushi VS Kumo

Imomushi is a naughty girl, so I was worried that she might accidentally kill Alice. Glad she was alright.

Are you a virgin?

Huh?

I-I'm too busy with my studies!

FYI, Imomushi's unexpected question isn't out of personal interest. Caterpillars have unique strategies to catch their enemies off guard: swallowtails poke out long antennae, hawk moth caterpillars pretend they're snakes, and Eudocima tyrannus contorts itself into weird shapes.

Geji vs Goki-buri

House centipedes are the natural enemy of roaches. It's as if they evolved for the sole purpose of beating cockroaches at being fast. It would be funny if that were true and they're that fixated on roaches.

She won't die...!

She's faster than me...

House centipedes made their bodies super light for maximum speed, so their endurance level took a dive. In fact, they'd roll over and die from a quick dose of bug-spray, but roaches won't go down that easily. They're tough.

Also, "Vaian Maiden" (serialized in Champion Red) is about high school girls who battle with kabutomushi powers.

Imomushi-san also appears in "Caterpillar," now running in Young Gangan Magazine, and its plot's connection to "Arachnid" continues to get deeper.

To think that I can write three mangas about bugs battling at the same time...

I'm truly blessed!

It'd be great if you can read all three series together!

[CREDITS]

Bye bye!

If there are extra pages again, that is.

Well then, let's meet again in Volume 8.

[CREDITS]

Horseflies are masters of assassination. I recently saw a hornet getting caught and carried off helplessly by a horsefly in the park. It happened pretty close by, I was surprised.

I'm the strongest.

I'm the strongest.

Kabuto-mushi vs Abu

Apparently insects with elytra (including rhinoceros beetles) are viable targets for horseflies. But, if they were in a position to wield their full kabuto strength, I bet the ultimate assassin can't do jack.

END

ガンガンコミックスJOKER

GC JOKER

アラクニド

7

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Arachnid

Volume 7 • Chapter 35

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